



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Volume 33 (actually 30), Number 6  
November-December 1982

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## Conference Calendar

### November

- |       |                                                                 |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5     | World Community Day                                             |
| 12    | Long Range Planning Committee<br>Christian Education Commission |
| 14    | Stewardship Sunday<br>National Salute to Vietnam Veterans       |
| 17    | Outreach Commission                                             |
| 21    | Heritage Sunday<br>Thanksgiving Sunday<br>Bible Sunday          |
| 21-28 | National Bible Week                                             |
| 28    | First Sunday in Advent                                          |

### December

- |    |                                                   |
|----|---------------------------------------------------|
| 3  | E. Ala. Ministers & Spouses Christmas Dinner      |
| 4  | N. Ala. Ministers & Spouses Christmas Dinner      |
| 5  | Health & Welfare Sunday                           |
| 10 | Human Rights Day                                  |
| 11 | Central Ala. Ministers & Spouses Christmas Dinner |

## INTRODUCING DAN ROSEMERGY

The Rev. Dan Rosemergy is serving as part-time Coordinator of the Ala.-Tenn. Association. Dan is also enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry degree program at the Vanderbilt Divinity School in the combined areas of ethics and pastoral theology and counseling. As part of that program, he is doing Clinical Pastoral Education as a chaplain at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Nashville. He received his Master of Divinity degree with honors from Vanderbilt in 1982 with an academic concentration in theology. The Rev. Rosemergy was ordained in May at the Brookmeade Congregational Church, UCC in Nashville.

Dan was born and raised in Michigan and received both B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Michigan. He served four years as an officer in the U.S. Navy and then pursued a successful "first career" in higher education administration at the University of Michigan. His decision to undertake a

theological education was a reaffirmation of an earlier commitment to the ministry. He is enthusiastic about and deeply committed to the UCC and what it stands for in our society.

As Ala.-Tenn. Coordinator, Dan assists with the work of the Association standing committees as well as serving as staff person for the Executive Council. He is a liaison for all Conference work related to the Association.

We welcome Dan! Contact him at the Ala.-Tenn. Association Office, 700 Bresslyn Rd., Nashville, TN 37205, phone (615) 352-4702.

## **ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETINGS FEATURED**

The annual meetings of the six Associations of the Southeast Conference were marked by good attendance, spiritual programs and enthusiastic commitment to the growth and development of our churches.

This issue of the *Southeast News* highlights reports from three of these meetings and lists newly elected officers and committee chairs of all Associations. Watch for reports of the other Association meetings.

## **Youth Planning Meeting**

The Ala.-Tenn. Association held its fall youth program planning day Sept. 25 at Belvidere UCC, Belvidere, TN. The Rev. John Schaeffer welcomed the group of almost 30 youth, youth advisors and ministers from Nashville, Sweetwater, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Huntsville and Belvidere. Barbara Everett, youth advisor, and the Belvidere youth group were hosts for the event; leadership was provided by Jana Thatcher, Belvidere youth group, and Terri Knupp, Nashville Brookmeade Congregational Church youth group. Special guest Rev. Warren Blankenhorn told about youth activities in the South Alabama area, particularly their caravan camping trips, in which the group was invited to participate.

The previous year's activities were evaluated, Pop-ins and reach-out fellowship days directed to smaller cluster areas were planned. Development of issues/themes for pop-ins, including communing with nature, conflict resolution, peace and personal-spiritual growth, and participation in the mini caravan to Panama City with Rev. Blankenhorn's group were discussed.

The first Pop-in is scheduled for Nov. 19-21 at the Brookmeade Church in Nashville, a second at Belvidere UCC April 8-10, and a third at Sweetwater, TN at a date to be announced later. The group expressed unanimous support for youth program and activities during the SE Conference meeting, suggested the possibility of another conference-wide youth rally weekend (possibly in Atlanta) and passed a resolution urging the reestablishment of the SE Conference Youth Core, particularly for youth leadership training.

The Rev. Dan Rosemergy, Interim Association Coordinator, Ala.-Tenn. Association, assisted with preparations for the day and will provide staff support in implementing program plans.

## **NEWS & NOTES**

November 7 is the 25th anniversary of the ordination of *Floyd Carmack* of Bonanza U.C.C. in Jonesboro, GA. The date also happens to fall on the 16th anniversary of Bonanza church! Congratulations to both the church and their pastor.

The last Sunday of the Church year is designated as Heritage Sunday. The *Fairfield Glade Community Church* in Tennessee proposes to celebrate this day by asking all those persons who were received into their membership during 1982 to be seated at worship together in one section to be again recognized in a special ceremony. The church will also recognize all those who were members prior to this year. A meaningful way to finish the Church year!

*Cion de Jesus* was ordained on October 24 at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta. She is chaplain at University Hospital in Augusta, GA. Our best wished to Cion in her ministry.

On Sunday, Oct. 31, a celebration was held at Jones Chapel, Moulton, Ala. in recognition of 50 years in the ministry of *R. Marvin Waugh*. Congratulations to Mr. Waugh, who is pastor of Jones Chapel.

Rev. and Mrs. John D. Schofield of Langdale Congregational Christian Church, Langdale, AL, recently took 110 pairs of glasses, three boxes of books and several boxes of good clothing to Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Georgia.

## **GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION MEETING**

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Georgia-South Carolina Association was held at Central Congregational Church in Atlanta, Oct. 22-24. The meeting was begun with worship led by Bonanza U.C.C. Included on the agenda was an ecclesiastical examination of *Cion de Jesus* on Friday night.

Saturday began with worship led by First Congregational Church, Atlanta. The business session included minutes and reports from the committees.

Church and Ministry reported on ministerial membership and introduced an intern working with Dr. Marvin Morgan at First Church, Atlanta.

Women in Church & Society reported aims to reformulate goals and action, and develop leadership skills.

Conference Minister, Dr. Emmett Floyd, commended the progress of two NICD churches, Button Gwinnett and Pilgrimage, and introduced Rev. James

Cantrell, minister in the renewal program at First Church in Savannah, a third NICD church. On the horizon are three more new starts. Dr. Floyd also spoke about the Christian Education program and church growth.

Minister-at-Large Rev. Ed Brown emphasized the Peace Priority and the halting of the nuclear arms race.

Dr. Jon Gunnemann brought an address on "The Familial Captivity of the Church."

Christian Education: Association Conference Minister Rev. Warren Blankenhorn explained the Caravan program and schedule for 1983, invited GA-SC participation in the MiniCamps, and told of a trip to Elon Home in N.C.

Outreach announced that both NICD churches recently attained their 100-membership mark.

Recommendation was made to award \$500 to the "Christians Against Hunger in Georgia" project.

Dr. Floyd was surprised by the presentation of a Haystack Chalice from the Board for World Ministries for his service on this board. Freda Brown, Moderator of the Southeast Conference, made the presentation and told of the history behind the Haystack prayer meeting that initiated the modern missionary movement in America.

Newly elected officers are listed below.

## **ALA-TENN ASSOCIATION MEETING**

The theme "Membership Growth: From Hopes to Reality" received an enthusiastic response from close to 100 ministers, delegates and visitors at the Ala.-Tenn. Association Annual Meeting held at Brookmeade Congregational UCC in Nashville Sept. 17-18.

Representatives of three churches—Tina Alston from Brookmeade, Yubenia Prigmore from Sweetwater and James Mason and Peggy Mason from Huntsville—reported on events of the past year in these churches. This celebration of the work of the church was followed by a challenging keynote address by the Rev. James W. Atchison, Secretary for New Church Development, UCBHM.

The Rev. Melvin Dollar led the delegates in worship on "Evangelism and Membership Growth" and emphasized the importance of *setting membership growth goals, implementing programs* to meet those goals, and doing it all with *enthusiasm*. He presented specific ideas on prospect lists, tips for calling on prospects, assimilating new members into the congregation, and actively involving current church members in the life of the church. Dollar emphasized the importance of the visibility of the church in the community.

Rev. David Beebe led a session on "Church Newsletters" and Rev. Henry Tuttle led a session on "The Public Media." Small group discussions allowed the delegates to deal with many issues.

The business meeting provided an opportunity to hear reports from the officers and committees, to review the 1983 budget, and hear a report on the Women in Church and Society Commission presented by Phemie Young. The two-day event was a unique opportunity for fellowship, for exchange of ideas and materials, for celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the UCC, and enjoyment of Music City, USA.

Newly elected officers are listed below.

## **Season's Greetings from the Southeast Conference Staff**

May all the joys of this Blessed Season be with all our people this Christmas. Thankful for the gifts of the past, may we unite in the Spirit of Jesus Christ to be bearers of the Good News and messengers of Peace and Love to the whole world.

Emmett O. Floyd, Warren A. Blankenhorn, Dan Rosemergy, Joyce B. Myers (OCLL), Annette Piper, Virginia McCamey, Nate Neely

## **FOR SALE**

Used A.B. Dick Model 525 mimeograph with storage stand. Value is \$500, negotiable. Contact Judy C. Beebe, mornings (615) 266-0013; after 6:00 pm, (615) 266-8467, for more information.

## **In Brief**

FREE pins to all who would obey Jesus' 2000 years' old command to be a "Servant of All" in your own way (Mark 10:43, 44).

If you desire the details of the way Church of the Savior, Knoxville, has and is approaching fulfillment of this "not impossible" task and want free pins for all participants in your family, club, school or church—who will wear and respond all week long—write Servant of All, Church of the Savior U.C.C., Weisgarber and Lonas Roads, Knoxville, TN 37919.

Please share *your* projects of discovery with us and with others who are seeking.

## **CONFERENCE CORNER**

We recently received a letter from the Rev. Mel Dollar who is serving the Bethel-Concord Parish in Burlington, NC. Mel was a special resource person at the Ala.-Tenn. Annual Meeting September and led a great workshop on "Evangelism and Church Growth." He writes about the visitation program that is being set up in his two churches, the increase in attendance, and the fact that six

new members are being received in the churches so far this month. He says, "The people are super—and we are off to a good start!"

As I read the letter, I wondered how many churches in *our* Association and Conference are "off to a good start" in working toward membership growth. Have we set membership growth goals? Have we begun the process of planning and implementing programs to meet those goals? I hope so. But I realize that all too frequently we leave annual meeting thinking that the program was great and have good intentions—but somehow find it difficult to get around to doing something about them. If that's your case, let's make it different in '83. Let's set reasonable but challenging membership growth goals for each church—not just for increased membership figures but because we, as a loving covenant community, have something special to share with folks. We want them to be part of our church and, in turn, to enrich our fellowship, to share in spiritual growth and in our mutual concern and caring for all humankind. Let's commit ourselves to asking a friend, neighbor or colleague to church. Let's make our church—the UCC—visible in our communities and region. We can grow if we want to grow and if we will commit ourselves to it! Finally, as Mel urges, let's do it with "enthusiasm!"

--Dan Rosemergy  
Ala.-Tenn. Association Coordinator

## **HEALTH AND WELFARE SUNDAY**

Visiting the Elon Home for Children in North Carolina with his family, a young husband and father smiled and said, "The campus has changed a lot, but it looks good to me."

The young man knew the place well—he was one of hundreds who had been given a home at Elon when it counted most. Some children have stayed at the United Church of Christ-related home for a few months, some for several years. Each has found love, shelter, skilled professional guidance and a new look at a battered self-image.

The Elon Home for Children is one of 132 health and welfare institutions related to our denomination through the United Church of Christ Council for Health and Welfare Services. Health and Welfare Sunday is observed Dec. 5. A Directory of Services of the Council for Health and Welfare Services booklet can be ordered from the Division of Health and Welfare, UCBHM, 132 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001.

## **UCC—Who We Are, What We Believe**

is a brochure with a short description of the origins, characteristics and beliefs of the UCC. This is especially good to hand to prospective members. A limited supply is available free from the Conference office, or you may order from

the Division of Publication, 132 West 31st St., New York, NY 10001 at \$2.50 per dozen, \$15.00 per hundred.

## **CENTRAL ALABAMA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

The Central Alabama Association of Congregational Christian Churches (United Church of Christ) held their annual meeting on October 17 at Watson Chapel Church, Eclectic, AL. Members and visitors were welcomed by Rev. Fletcher Howington. Special music was offered by the Watson Chapel Trio. The devotional was brought by Rev. Andrew Nelson.

The minutes and the treasurer's report were read and approved. Member-at-Large, Mrs. Challis Rhodes, reported on trips she had made to Atlanta; Cheaha, Alabama; Cullman and others representing the Association.

Mrs. Wayne Burton reporting on Christian Education and Youth said this has been a busy year. The Camp in September was a great success. The session included a Christian Encounter Session which has carried over into the church life.

Special music from Colleen & Kerry from the E. Tallassee Church and from the Tallassee Church Choir was enjoyed. Conference Minister Dr. Emmett Floyd reported that the emphasis for the next several years would be on the growth and development of smaller churches. Programs will be specifically aimed toward guiding these churches in the future. He also reported on the New Initiatives for Church Development. He spoke on the emphasis being made on continuing education for Ministers. More opportunities are to be made available.

Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister, reported on the Southern Alabama Area, emphasizing the Caravan Camping and encouraging participation. He spoke on strengthening Christian Education in the churches and reported that night courses for the Christian Ministry will be offered at LaGrange Campus.

Mrs. Louise Cox spoke on Women in the Church. Since 1980 two retreats have been held and also two regional meetings, studying women of the Bible, women of other nations, and contemporary subjects. Central Association women were urged to be a part of this program.

The meeting was brought to a close by Mrs. Duane Steinig with the closing prayer led by Rev. Norman Steinig. The newly elected officers are listed below.

## **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WOMEN IN MISSION**

To be in mission is the central task of the church. Mission is God's people gathered to worship, empowered to act, called to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Mission is God's people responding to the call to: proclaim the Good News, alleviate suffering, love and support one another, overcome oppression, foster justice and care for the earth. Being engaged in mission is a

big job. But we don't have to do it alone. In Acts 1:8 we read "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth." (Jerusalem Bible)

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, women in the UCC are called to unite in partnership for mission; to become *UCC Women in Mission*. This is an invitation to UCC women to be more fully involved in the mission of the church at every level. As UCC Women in Mission we have an opportunity to share our special gifts and to witness to the power of partnership. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can be women supporting one another, strengthening the church, serving the whole world. Mission is our calling. In saying "yes" to Christ, we say "yes" to mission!

A special packet of materials including a poster/brochure, a complimentary copy of *The Common Lot*, partnership forms and more is being sent to the women leaders in each local congregation of the UCC and to others who have expressed interest in the new partnership. If for some reason you have not received a packet of materials in your church by November 30, 1982, contact the Conference office for a copy or write to the Coordinating Center for Women, 1400 North Seventh Street, Suite D, St. Louis, MO 63016.

## **INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN YOUTH EXCHANGE**

Since its beginning, the U.C.C. has been a participating denomination in the International Christian Youth Exchange Program. The ICYE is beginning the recruitment of exchanges and host families for the 1983-84 exchange year, which begins and ends in late July. Persons 16-24 years of age who are interested in living and working abroad and families who are interested in hosting a student should contact Jeff Bryan, ICYE-US, 74 Trinity Pl., Rm. 610, New York, NY 10006 for more information.

## **Curt's Nuggets**

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee:

Only by risking faith can one find faith.

## **Conference Commission Meetings**

The Fall work of the Conference continues. The following meetings took place recently:

The *Christian Education Commission* utilized the resourceful leadership of Rev. Richard Rinker of the Southern Conference Staff to plan for the training of consultants in Christian Education. These consultants would be recruited from



each cluster area of the Conference to aid local churches in all phases of their Christian Education programs. A training session for all of these persons will be conducted next spring. Attending this two-day workshop held in Atlanta Nov. 12-13 were: Roy T. Bain, Barbara Everett, Emmett Floyd, Andrew and Annie Frierson, John H. Jones, John and Betty Maust, Annette Piper and Yubenia Prigmore.

The *Long-Range Planning Committee* continues to pursue its study of funding and support for the total Conference program, including Christian Education and Youth Ministries. Concern for reaching others with the story of the UCC and in reaching the unchurched people was discussed. Some possible changes in the Conference programming are also under study. These ideas will be fully shared with the Conference before any steps are taken. At the Nov. 12-13 meeting in Atlanta were: Freda D. Brown, W. David Chandler, Emmett Floyd, Audrey Livingston, Franklin W. Thomas, and Henry W. Tuttle.

The *Outreach Commission* met with resource person Rev. Ed Mehlhaff of the South Central Conference at Bonanza UCC in Jonesboro, GA Nov. 17. Emphasis was given to the need to encourage all our churches to a more adequate support of Conference and denominational programs through O.C.W.M. A new mission/stewardship emphasis was discussed and plans made for this undertaking. A strong commitment to church growth and evangelism was decided upon. More on these programs will be shared next year. Plans for a "Mission Alive" program for the spring of 1983 were discussed. Attending were: L. Floyd Carmack, Ira W. Chace, Emmett O. Floyd, Joseph H. Irwin, and H. Eugene Keen.

## **ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

### Alabama-Tennessee Association

Moderator: Eugene Keen (7906 Whitesburg Dr. S., Huntsville, AL 35802)

Vice-Moderator: Barbara Everett

Secretary: Peggy Mason

Treasurer: Frank Haile

Member-at-Large: Pressley Ingram

Church & Ministry: John Schaeffer

Christian Education: Andrew Frierson

Outreach: Richard Braun

### Central Alabama Association

Moderator: Mrs. Duane Steinig (Star Rt. A, Box 6, Eclectic, AL 36024)

Vice-Moderator: Tony Walker

Ministerial Committee: Graham Norris

Christian Education: Mrs. Wayne Burton

Secretary-Treasurer: Barbara Taylor  
Member-at-Large: Challis Rhodes  
Evangelism-Stewardship: Norman Steinig

East Alabama Association

Moderator: Louise J. Cox (Rt. 1, Box 3E, LaFayette, AL 36862)  
Vice-Moderator: Donald Scovill  
Secretary: Jerri Lewis  
Treasurer: Donald Harmon  
Member-at-Large: John Schofield  
Christian Education: Roy Bain  
Church & Ministry: Joe French  
Outreach: Arthur Dailey

Georgia-South Carolina Association

Moderator: Lillie Gillard  
Vice-Moderator: Henry C. Weaver  
Secretary: Ira Pinkney  
Treasurer: Billy Bell  
Member-at-Large: Joan Moore  
Christian Education: vacant  
Church & Ministry: Ira Chace  
Outreach: Donald Nelson  
Minister-at-Large: Ed Brown

North Alabama Association

Moderator: Herschel Armor (Route 5, Moulton, AL 35650)  
Vice-Moderator: James T. Lowery  
Secretary-Treasurer: Eva Shelton  
Member-at-Large: George Washington  
Christian Education: Julia Dunlap  
Church & Ministry: George Washington  
Outreach: Lawson Clark

**FLASH !!!: MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE  
SOUTHEAST CONERENCE ANNUAL MEETING**

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference will be held April 29, 30-May 1, 1983 at Bonanza United Church of Christ, Jonesboro, Georgia.

Lodging, schedule, theme and speakers will be announced in the next issue of *Southeast News*.

Start making plans to attend!

## **THE SOUTHEAST NEWS**

Annette K. Piper, Editor  
Published by the Southeast Conference  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 29883  
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

The preceding was a transcription from the original publication, except for photographs and associated captions, an advertisement for The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ on page 3, an advertisement for United Church of Christ Women in Mission on page 5, and poems by Christina Rosetti and Peter Marshall and a passage from *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, all on page 5. Neither the original nor the transcription are copyrighted or have rights reserved; they are in the public domain for free use. Copies of the original may be obtained from the Southeast Conference office.

This transcription was recorded on July 2 and 3, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

